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# FOREIGN AND INSULAR

## CHINA.

### DALNY—Plague.

Vice Consul Coldwell reports, January 28:

During the week ended January 27 there were reported at Dalny 28 cases of plague with 25 deaths. Previously to January 22 there had been reported 12 deaths, making a total of 37 deaths from plague since the beginning of the outbreak.

Although this week shows a very marked increase in cases and deaths, most of these have occurred in the detention hospital, where all who have been exposed to infection are confined.

All localities where cases have occurred are inclosed with a corrugated iron fence and patrolled by soldiers and police, so that none of those inside can come out. Money, mail matter, jinrikisha, and carriages are all disinfected regularly.

No person can leave by steamer without having been in Dalny two days and having passed the medical examination. Third-class tickets are not being sold on the railway, and persons buying second or even first class tickets are refused passage if they have the appearance of coolies. A line is made across the city and Chinese can not go from one side to the other without a pass, and even then they are sprayed with formaline vapor at the line. The coolies working on the wharf are marched away together at night and marched back in the morning, and no one can enter the wharf without medical examination.

### HARBIN—Status of plague.

Consul Greene reports, January 20:

The number of deaths from plague at Harbin and Fuchiatien to January 17, inclusive, is as follows:

	Jan. 11-17, 1911.	Total since beginning, Nov. 8, 1910.
Harbin.....	<sup>1</sup> 194	<sup>2</sup> 433
Fuchiatien.....	798	1,803
Total.....	992	2,236

<sup>1</sup> 7 Europeans.

<sup>2</sup> 12 Europeans.

Of this number 267 died in the plague hospitals and 166 were found dead in streets and houses.

There has been no authentic case of recovery from plague in this epidemic, with the exception of one Russian child who had the disease at Manchuria station.

The average mortality in Harbin itself has increased from 11 to about 28 per day, and there has lately been on an average 1 death per day among the European population. There is consequently

growing alarm among the Russians, some of whom are making arrangements to send their families away. The patrolling of the roads leading into the city is now more thoroughly done, but since people are admitted at points fixed for the purpose after a very cursory examination, this measure can not be considered as a very effective protection against infection from outside.

As regards the mortality at Fuchiatien, while the reports during the last week show an average of 114 deaths per day, an increase of about 24 compared with the previous period, it is generally believed that the actual deaths come to between 150 and 200 per day, the difference being made up by cases not discovered by the police. Many bodies are still removed from the town secretly and left in the fields or on the streets, those in the more out-of-the-way places becoming the prey of dogs and birds.

The sanitary administration of Fuchiatien has not yet been fully organized. There are now three British physicians in Harbin who were sent from Peking with full powers from the foreign office to assist in the campaign against the plague epidemic in Fuchiatien. They have not begun actual work in Fuchiatien on account of the difficulty of securing proper quarters for themselves and the Chinese soldiers who are to be sent here from Changchung to enforce sanitary measures and who are to be quartered in Fuchiatien. About 700 soldiers will be quartered in some unused Russian flour mills north of the Chinese town, and a passenger car is being prepared for the use of the physicians who can not get lodgings in Harbin while working in the Chinese town.

Information is received from St. Petersburg that at a meeting of a council of ministers it was decided that the Chinese Eastern Railway should take such further measures as might be necessary to prevent infection from being communicated to places within the railway concession area, but that the work of dealing with the epidemic within Chinese territory should be left entirely to the Chinese authorities. Further, in view of the lack of information in regard to the development of the epidemic in the interior, which constituted a serious menace to Russia and to the other countries of Europe, it was decided to request the minister for foreign affairs to enter into negotiations with the Chinese and other interested governments for the organization of a scientific expedition to investigate the centers of plague infection in Manchuria.

Discouraging reports continue to come in of the rapid spread of plague in the towns and villages near Harbin, but no statistics are available in regard to the mortality.

According to the railway company's reports, which as stated before do not include the dead bodies that are constantly being found, the number of cases and deaths on the railway lands has been as follows:

	Jan. 11-17, 1911.		Total since beginning, Oct. 25, 1910.	
	New cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Chinese .....	146	150	773	766
Europeans .....	8	10	25	23
Total .....	154	160	798	789

At the request of the Chinese authorities and the Japanese railway company the sale to Chinese of third and fourth class tickets to points on the Chinese Eastern Railway south of Harbin was to be stopped January 20. Strict quarantine is being enforced at the frontier stations by the Russian authorities, and Chinese coolies are not allowed to enter Russian territory from Manchuria under any conditions during the continuance of the epidemic.

The governor of Kirin left Harbin January 15, but he has sent here in his place the acting commissioner of foreign affairs for Kirin Province, who will remain here for some time to look after the situation in Fuchiatien.

**MUKDEN—Status of plague.**

Consul Fisher reports, January 17:

From the appearance of pneumonic plague in Mukden to January 16 there have been reported 89 cases with 73 deaths. The largest number of cases was reported January 15 and 16, viz, 17 with 9 deaths and 36 with 28 deaths. The disease is rapidly increasing and cases are found in practically all parts of the city. The Chinese authorities are making efforts to prevent spread. Twelve assistants who are graduates of modern medical schools have recently arrived from Tientsin. The difficulty appears to be in inducing the lower classes to comply with the special sanitary regulations that have been issued.

There is amicable cooperation between the Chinese authorities and the administration of the Japanese railway settlement at Mukden, so that effective measures are now being taken to prevent infected coolies from the north taking up quarters promiscuously over the city. The largest number of cases has occurred in the district near the railway station, where Chinese coming in from Changchun have put up at the cheap hotels. It has now been arranged to destroy all buildings in the vicinity of the Japanese railway settlement in which plague cases have occurred, and about 30 have already been burned. These measures, however, have probably been taken too late to make possible an early eradication of the disease.

The number of cases occurring in Kirin is not reported. Some of the cases that have occurred in Mukden were imported direct from Kirin. It is stated that a medical staff has been sent to that city.

There have been about 100 cases to date at Changchun. Suspected cases have also been reported at Kaiyuan, Tiehling, and Kungchuling, on the Japanese railway to the north of Mukden, and at Hsinminfu on the imperial railways of north China. On January 14 the passenger train which arrived at Shanhaikwan from Mukden was found to have among its passengers 2 cases of suspected plague. The train was consequently sent back to Mukden under police guard, and passenger traffic on that railway has since been practically suspended.

On the South Manchurian Railway energetic measures are being taken to prevent the carrying of infected or exposed passengers. The sale of second-class and third-class tickets has been discontinued, and first-class tickets are sold to Chinese only after the station master is satisfied that the person has not been exposed. Doctors are carried on all passenger trains, and a detention station has been established at Tafangshen (Chinese) near the border of the leased territory, where Chinese passengers will be detained for a period of 10 days before they will be allowed to proceed southward.